

THE לְפָנַי SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

Rare Judaea Capta Coin Found Here

Archaeologists Offer New Finds

Yeshiva Tokens of the Joint

Jewish Minters and Engravers — Conclusion

The Crusader Bezants

New Romanoff Edition Announced

Numismatist/Philatelist Honored

1963 Presentation Set Variants

Albert Einstein Medals

Noah Legend Coin to Kadman

Club News, and Others

See Table of Contents Page 3



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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Now that we are into 1971, the growth of AINA has become even more evident in a number of important ways. We have enjoyed the greatest ever membership renewals in our brief history, which reflects, I am sure, the increased contact we have had with

AINA members: more mailings, more clubs, more club meetings, more interest in *The Shekel* and our other projects.

A good part of this growth of AINA could not have been possible were it not for the interest and enthusiasm of the new leadership at the local level such as Harold Mondell in Baltimore and Rabbi Aaron B. Ilson of Pittsburgh, gentlemen who have been elected presidents of the recently formed INS of Baltimore and Pittsburgh. Congratulations, Gentlemen!

1971 will also see new clubs with the Greater New York area being the

Continued on page 32

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Judaea Capta Variant Located in U. S. by Edward Janis	2
Medals of the Holy Land by Sylvia Haffner (A New Series)	4
AINA To Reissue Classic Romanoff Book	6
Kadman Museum Acquires Noah Legend Coin	7
The Yeshiva Tokens of the Joint by Dr. Samuel Halperin	8
The Crusader Bezants by Robert Schonwalter	10
The 1963 Agora Presentation Sets by M. de Vries	12
Gould's Gelt Guide by Maurice M. Gould	13
Terra Sancta Medals to U. S. Secret Service Guards	14
Aleph Beth by Edward Janis	15
Judaean Jottings — Medallie Portraits of Einstein by Mel Wacks ...	16
Jewish Minters and Engravers (Conclusion) by Daniel M. Friedenberg	19
Emil Weitz Honored with Plaque	25
Club News	27

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JUDAEA CAPTA VARIANT LOCATED BY U.S. COLLECTOR

by Edward Janis

A rare variant of the IVDAEA CAPTA Sestertii of Vespasian has been discovered by Thomas Tesoriero, noted New York numismatic authority of ancient Roman bronze issues.

In the initial issue of the *Israel Numismatic Journal* published in April, 1963, Josef Meyshan reported "An Unknown Variant and Date of Judaea Capta Coins" in which he stated that he possessed in his collection a sestertius of the Roman Imperial Judaea Capta coins, one which had a deviation from the usual arrangement of the Judaea Capta legend on the reverse and in addition had a date hitherto not known on coins of this series. Instead of the usual IVDAEA CAPTA or IVDAE CAPTA the legend was reversed and read CAPTA JUDAEA from the left continuing clockwise to the right.

The sestertii of the Roman "Judaea Capta" series always show the head of the Emperor with his name and titles. From these legends, the coins are dated. The last part of the legend of this series usually is the number of the Consulships held by the Emperor. Meyshan's coin has a legend that ended with COS II. Since Vaspasian was elected Consul for the second time in 70 C.E., it appears that this

coin was struck in that year. Part of the legend includes PM. Vaspasian was elected as "pontifex maximus" in November 70.

Meyshan concluded that the sestertius with CAPTA IVDAEA had to be struck no earlier than November and no later than December 70. Jerusalem was definitely captured in September 7-8, 70. Therefore he further concluded that news of the victory filtered back to Rome during the next few months and a new Capta coin series was started, as was the custom, for this most recent victory.

In November 1963, Colin M. Kray of Oxford reported three additional pieces known to him. They all had the same obverse die which was different from the Meyshan piece that was illustrated (INJ, Pl. 1-32). The three were as follows: Munzhandlung (Basel), Cat. 8 (1937) L. 621; Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum; and Magyar Regeszeti Museum, Budapest.

A fourth piece was reported at the close of 1964 in the *Israel Numismatic Journal*. This piece in the collection of Walter Zigmund of London and bears like the foregoing three pieces and Tesoriero's the Third Consulate (COS III) which falls in the years 72-73CE. Either of the two previous



Obverse and reverse of rare variant found by Thomas Tesoriero shows CAPTA JUDAEA, from left to right.

pieces could be the auction piece of 1937 mentioned in the Kraay listing. More research must be done to find the chain of ownership since the sale.

Kraay concluded that Meyshan's sesterius apparently struck in 70 CE would be completely anomalous both on account of its obverse legend and its reverse type; its die-links, moreover, connect it with other later ob-

verses of the middle of 71. It is, in fact, part of the great Judaea Capta issue put out in May and June 71, and is exceptional only in its reverse legend-CAPTA JUDAEA. In fact, there can be no doubt that the true reading is COS III (A.D. 71), as it is on all other coins of this type. The engraver of the die left himself insufficient room for the consular date, so that the final digit merged with the point of the bust. Other examples of the merging of the final digit exist, most notably VESP 526 & 527 BMC II Matt. where the merging of the final digit has again produced the erroneous reading COS II.

This much is therefor certain. To date, the Meyshan obverse with the Capta Judaea reverse is unique and there is now known five others with the same (COS III) obverse. The reverse showing a Jewess, draped, veiled, seated on cuirass facing r. to r. of palm tree, propping her head in attitude of dejection on her l. hand; l. arm resting on l. knee; on l. of the palm tree a Jewish captive is standing r., his hands bound behind his back; l. of Jew round and oblong shields and helmets; to r. of Jewess round shields. Inscription from l. below to r. above CAPTA IVDAEA; in exergue SC is the same on all six sestertii.



Judaea Capta variants; Tesoriero coin on right in each photo.

MEDALS OF THE HOLY LAND

by Sylvia Haffner



Mendel Beiliss Medal

Bernard Malamud, in his novel *The Fixer*, 1966, used as his source an actual court case in Kiev, Russia in 1913, when a Jew, Mendel Beiliss, was accused and imprisoned for a ritual murder of a youth. This was an attempt by the autocratic government to defame the Jews.

The book shows the accused—here one Yakov Bok, an odd-job man awaiting trial. Attempts are made to make him confess with personal indignities and torture, a calculated effort to degrade and dehumanize a soul. Yakov Bok (Mendel Beiliss) is brought out of the abuses not dehumanized but more fully a human being with complete integrity.

This medal was evidently issued to commemorate the fact that individual goodness can survive the evils of history. It is not known at this time who struck the medal or where it was struck. Anyone having further information on this medal is requested to forward the corrections or additions to *The Shekel*.

Metal: Lead; Edge: Plain; Diameter: 25mm; Weight: 9.2gm.

OBV: Portrait of Beiliss with the Hebrew inscription on each side, "MENDEL BEILISS."

REV: Around the rim, on top in Russian and below, in Hebrew, "MENDEL BEILISS"; in the center, "1913"; below, in Hebrew: "THE FIXER."



Paratroopers Medal-Ramat Gan

The different cities in Israel adopt one of the armed forces, a special kind of sponsor. The City of Ramat-Gan adopted the Paratroops. When a paratrooper completes his course, he is presented with this medal by the City at a presentation ceremony. It is not issued for sale.

When we were in Israel in February of 1968 we were touring the West bank. On our way down to the Allenby Bridge we were stopped by two Israeli Paratroopers. They advised us that the road was closed and asked us to return to Jerusalem.

We chatted with the two boys; one of them, Akiva Zaslansky spoke English. When he heard we were from California, he told us that someday when his services were no longer required in the army, he hoped to come to America. He hoped to attend the University of California to study television and film production. We gave him our name and address and told him if he ever came to the United States to be sure and call us.

All of this, including the time that it took to obtain their photograph, took less than 10 minutes. Little did we dream that in August of 1968 we would sponsor Akiva and his wife Ella as students to the United States. They are now our second family and it is his Paratroop Medal that you see here. It was his pleasure to present it to me and is one of my most prized Israel medals.



Metal: Brass; Edge: Plain; Diameter: 35mm; Weight: 23gm.

OBV: In the center, in Hebrew, "PARATROOPER'S DAY"; to the right and below, an open parachute and one wing.

REV: On the left, in Hebrew, "CITY RAMAT-GAN PRESENTS TO THE PARATROOPERS DAY / 1967"; the top shield is the emblem of the Paratroops; the bottom shield is the emblem of the City Ramat-Gan. All of the medals have a pre-punched hole in the top rim so that they may be worn on a chain.

Courtesy of: Akiva Zaslansky, paratrooper.



Left to right: Akiva Zaslansky, Ella Nathan, Sylvia Haffner, an unidentified soldier and Ernie Nathan.

JEWISH SYMBOLS ON ANCIENT COINS RE-PUBLISHED BY AINA

Noted New York Philanthropist Offers Grant To Assure Publication Success

A new edition of one of the most significant scholarly studies of symbology, *Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins* by Paul Romanoff, first published in 1944, and out-of-print for many years will be re-issued this Spring under the sponsorship of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

The new edition has been partly made possible by a grant from one of America's foremost philanthropists, Israel Cummings, a New York industrialist who has made a career of philanthropy as successful and distinguished as his career as a business leader.

The new edition of *Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins* will be re-created by photo offset from the original pages of the 1944 edition so that it will be exact in every detail. A dedication page, on which Mr. Cummings has chosen to honor his wife, Leah, who has shared his generosity by her own and a brief statement that the edition has been sponsored by AINA will alone distinguish this major scholarly study from the prior edition.

Israel and Leah Cummings have lent their names and support to numerous projects related to humane and cultural needs of the people of the Lower East Side of New York City. Himself the son of a poor immigrant family, he is known for such benefactions as the years of support of the Educational Alliance, recently completing 75 years of continuous service

as the oldest settlement house established by Jews in the United States.

In recent years, Mr. and Mrs. Cummings helped make possible one of the largest summer camp complexes in the nation at a site north of New York City. In another project, they sponsored the building of the Israel and Leah Cummings Recreation Center, a large gymnasium with lounges, activity rooms suitable for educational and cultural programs for men, women and children of his old neighborhood.

For such generosity, he has become known as "the man who never forgot". His donations and charities have reached into the homes of tens of thousands of families in the metropolitan New York area as well as in numerous international causes. No wonder that the City of New York officially honored this man on the occasion of his 80th Birthday!

Mr. Cummings, long a supporter of Israel, has been an ardent numismatic enthusiast, often giving coins of Israel to youths as part of their education of their Jewish heritage. Now, with his donation, a major scholarly work once again appears in print for the benefit of the new thousands of collectors of ancient and modern Israel coins.

The Board of Directors takes this public opportunity to thank both Israel and Leah Cummings for loaning their names and their grant to this unique cultural effort.

KADMAN MUSEUM ACQUIRES NOAH LEGEND COIN OF 244-249 A.D.



Through the generous donation of Mr. Irving Moskowitz, Detroit, the Kadman Numismatic Museum has been able to acquire recently an extraordinary important and rare coin.

This rather large coin was struck by the city of Apameia (Phrygia), Asia Minor during the reign of the Roman Emperor Philipp Arabs (244-249 A.D.).

On its obverse the bust of the emperor is depicted to the right, laureate, wearing paludamentum and cuirass. The respective legend points to the said emperor.

The reverse depicts the narrative of Noah. If one observes the presentation one has to draw an imaginary vertical line through the centre of the coin. One thereby divides the depiction into two continuous scenes of the same story, the narrative of Noah.

On the right side one sees the Ark of Noah—chest-shaped in the sense of the literal translation of the Hebrew Bible and its Greek translation the Septuagint. On the chest we read Noah's name in Greek (N-Omega-E). In it we see Noah and his wife with the lid of the chest open, as we are told in Genesis, that Noah opened the lid of the Ark to find out whether the flood was receding.

On the lid (right) a bird is to be

seen—obviously the raven, sent out first by Noah. On the left of the lid another bird is seen approaching the Ark with an olive branch in its claws—obviously the dove. Below the chest are some parallel wavy lines indicating the water.

On the left we see Noah and his wife outside the Ark, raising their right hands in an attitude of thanksgiving. The legend around refers to the city of Apameia and to an high official of the city.

The depiction however matching the Bible narrative differs in some details from the Bible tradition. The Ark is square instead of rectangular according to the measurements given in the Bible. The dove carries an olive branch in her claws instead of an olive-leaf in her beak. And finally, Noah is supposed—according to the Bible—to sacrifice over an altar, he does however not do so on our coin.

It is believed, that the depiction on our coin has been copied from a wall painting of the local synagogue. The Jewish community of Apameia was renowned as rich and therefore, most probably, also influential. Cicero informs us in his *Pro Flacco* (51/50 B.C.) that the Jewish community of Apameia sent to the Temple in Jerusalem 100-lbs. of gold.

THE YESHIVA TOKENS OF THE JOINT

by Dr. Samuel Halperin

Sylvia Haffner has written movingly about the numismatic record of the Jewish people's forced sojourn on Cyprus in 1947-1948. Her article on the on the Cyprus canteen chits issued by the American Joint Distribution Committee (see *World Coins*, No. 67, July 1969, or *The History of Modern Israel's Money* (second edition pp. 328-31) is both an important contribution to contemporary numismatic scholarship and a testament to the fraternal bonds which linked American Jewry with its overseas brethren in the darkest days of two great world wars and which continue, unbroken, to this day.

Other numismatic tokens document further the remarkable record of American philanthropy in the Holy Land, generally, and the particular work of the little-heralded American Joint Distribution Committee.

The story begins in November 1914 when the Central Relief Committee of Orthodox American Jewry combined with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Joined in 1915 by Jewish labor's People's Relief Committee, the JDC—soon called simply "*the Joint*"—became American Jewry's first major fund-raising mechanism for the relief of overseas Jewry ravaged by the spread of World War I.

Under the leadership of the great philanthropist and financier Felix Warburg, and the particular help of Rabbi Judah Magnes and industrialist Julius Rosenwald, Joint raised some \$16.5 million dollars during the war. This sum, small by comparison with the philanthropy of contemporary American Jewry, enabled much of the Jewish settlement in Palestine (Yishuv) and in Central and Eastern Europe to escape famine and to begin the re-

construction of their despoiled homes and Jewish communal institutions.

In postwar Europe, Joint was at the forefront of social rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced Jewry in such places as the Crimea and Latin America.

During and after the Second World War, Joint again occupied the front rank in a fantastic array of efforts to save both the lives and the spirits of oppressed and impoverished Jews. (For a fascinating account of the work of Joint, see Herbert Agar, *The Saving Remnant; An Account of Jewish Survival*. New York: The Viking Press, 1960.) Joint is still at work. In 1969 it aided some 323,000 Jews with disbursements of \$23.4 million.

Of particular interest to token collectors and historians is Joint's historical commitment to support of young scholars in *yeshivot*, institutions of higher learning in Jewish law and lore. Although only a small fraction of Jewry studied in such schools, it was Joint's view that it was the yeshiva scholar who nourished the whole of world Jewry by his study of Torah—"the portable spiritual fatherland of the Jews."

During the First World War, Joint aided the rescue of hundreds of rabbis and sages as the great centers of Jewish learning in Vilna, Riga, Kovno, Pressburg, Warsaw and Breslau were engulfed by war. Later, more than 250 yeshivot were reconstructed or aided with American dollars raised and distributed by Joint. (As recently as 1969, some 18,000 yeshiva scholars in 160 yeshivot received Joint assistance exceeding \$800,000.)

From its inception, yeshivot in Palestine and Israel shared in Joint's concern for the perpetuation of Jewish

scholarship. One recipient of Joint assistance was the famous Yeshiva in Hebron, whose students were massacred by Arab marauders in the pogrom of 1929. Dov Genachowski has written of the numismatic tokens of this yeshiva. (See *The Shekel*, Volume III, No. 1, Spring 1970.)

Tokens issued by one of Joint's many cooperating agencies, the Vaad Hayeshivot (Council of Yeshivot) in Israel, were exchanged for food commodities both in the period of "Tsena"—economic austerity—in the early 1950s and, earlier, as part of the regular subsistence payment provided

by the yeshiva authorities to their scholars and sages.

After the United States Government concluded its "Food for Peace" agreement with the Government of Israel in 1950, the Joint—recognized as an American rescue and relief agency—was designated as one of the channels for the distribution of surplus U.S. agricultural commodities. In turn, the Joint's Vaad Hayeshivot was empowered to operate a token exchange system for these food products and to serve the needs of the Israeli yeshiva population.

Continued on page 26.

INK COLOR	CARDBOARD COLOR	EXCHANGE VALUE
1. blue	light blue	2 loaves — ordinary or standard bread ("lechen achid")
2. blue	brown	10 loaves — ordinary bread
3. blue	yellow	2 loaves white bread

The above have a vertical pattern in the middle which is printed in red.

4. blue	canary	2 loaves white bread
	Contains an overprint in red: "chadash" — "new"	
5. blue	brown	10 loaves — ordinary bread

The five tokens above are printed in Hebrew "good until (various dates in the months of) Elul and Nisan, 1952."

6. black	pink	5 loaves — ordinary bread
7. black	pink with reddish checkered background	5 loaves — ordinary bread
8. black	brown with reddish checkered background	10 loaves — ordinary bread
9. green	light blue	1 package matzot
10. green	pink	1 kilogram biscuit

The five tokens above are undated. All ten tokens above are printed in Hebrew only.

11. red	white	2 kilograms bread, valid until 31.10.64
12. green	white	2 kilograms bread, valid until 31.11.64
13. red	green	6 kilograms bread, valid until 31.10.64
14. red	yellow	1 package noodles, undated
15. blue	white	2 kilograms bread, valid until 30.9.64
16. blue	white	6 kilograms bread, valid until 30.9.64

The six tokens above are printed in both Hebrew and English: *Food for Peace — Donated by the People of the U. S. A. and in Hebrew only: By means of the Joint and the Council of Yeshivot in Israel.*

THE CRUSADER BEZANTS

by Robert Schonwalter

In 1250 King Louis IX of France, better known as St. Louis, arrived at Acre, having been ransomed after his capture in Egypt during the Seventh Crusade. With him was the papal legate, Eudes of Chateauroux.

Both men were scandalized to discover that the crusader states were issuing, and had been issuing for about 150 years, the so-called Crusader Bezants, gold dinars imitating those of their Islamic enemies with inscriptions in often blundered Arabic praising Muhammad and his teachings and dated according to the Hegira. These coins were issued in Acre and Tyre for the Kingdom of Jerusalem, in Tripolis for the County of Tripolis and Antioch for the Principality of Antioch.

There was a purely economic reason for this coinage. From the time that the Roman and Byzantine Empires had ruled Palestine the area had been used to a gold coinage. During the years before the Crusaders had conquered the land the Filastin mint had been operated at Ramle by a series of Islamic dynasties minting dinars.

The crusader states had existed for more than a century and a half and had needed a currency which was acceptable to their neighbors with whom they were at peace for considerable periods during which trade flourished. In the Kingdom of Jerusalem imitations of the Fatimid dinars of Al-Mustansir were minted at Acre, and of Al-Amir at Tyre.

Coinage of 1251

Eudes, probably at the behest of St. Louis and certainly with his approval, excommunicated those who were responsible for these issues, securing the approval for this action from Pope Innocent IV in Rome. However there still was a need for a similar coinage.

To satisfy this need gold dinars and silver dirhems and half dirhems were minted, starting in 1251, all with Arabic inscriptions but with Christian crosses and mottoes. For instance, the dinar illustrated here translates, on the obverse, "*Struck at Acco in the year 1251 of the incarnation of the Messiah. The Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, One Divinity*" and the reverse, "*We glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus the Messiah from whom we have our health and our life and our resurrection and through whom we have been delivered and forgiven*", in the center a cross. The dirhem obverse translates, "*Struck at Acco in the year 1251. Only one God, only one faith, only one Baptism*", and on the reverse, "*Glory to God forever. Amen. Amen. Amen. The Father, the Son, the Holy Ghost, one Divinity*", in the center a cross.

Thus, prodded by their European brethren, the Christians of the Holy Land reconciled their commerce with their Lord.



*Ikhshidid Dinar
Abu'l Qasim
Filastin Mint
346 A. H. = 949 C. E.*

*Fatimid Dinar
Al-Aziz
Filastin Mint
371 A. H. = 981 C. E.*



*Crusader Dinar
Imitation of
Al-Mustansir
Acco Mint*

*Crusader Dinar
Imitation of
Al-Amir
Tyre Mint*



*Crusader Dinar
Christian Legends
in Arabic
Acco Mint, 1251*

*Crusader Dirhem
Christian Legends
in Arabic
Acco Mint, 1251*

The 1963 Agora Presentation Sets

by M. de Vries, Haarlem, Holland

A complete list of the 1963 presentation sets has not yet been published. Haffner and Bertram and Weber differ slightly in their description as to what actually has been distributed.

Recently, however, a fellow collector showed me some sets among which an experimental issue which I have never seen mentioned before. With the kind assistance of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation I was able to draw up a tentative list. It becomes now apparent that the 1963 presentation set has been issued in 3 basic forms with variations within these forms.

1. 1963 experimental issue

This set is a white cardboard holder identical in design to Haffner S-6 or Bertram and Weber AMS-1 with the following differences:

- the card was not covered with plastic but the individual coins were with the plastic material or cellophane pressed between the card-halves.
- the card-halves were stapled together.

This set contains the 1962 25 agorot piece.

It is said that no more than 200 of these sets were made.

2. 1963 more sophisticated issue

This is the 1963 presentation set Haffner S-6 or Bertram and Weber AMS-1. A simple plastic covered white card printed in black.

The following variations are known to exist:

- a) set containing a 1960 25 agorot coin
- b) set containing a 1961 25 agorot coin
- c) set containing a 1962 25 agorot coin
- d) set containing a 1963 25 agorot coin
- e) set containing a 1962 25 agorot coin with an inverted one agora piece.

3. 1963 new design re-issue

This is the presentation set Haffner S-7 and Bertram and Weber AMS-2. The design and the packaging were improved and the sets all contain 1963 coins. Only two variations exist:

- a) set containing the regular one agora coin
- b) set containing the inverted one agora coin.

It seems that at least 8 different sets exist varying either in content or design.

I am not certain, however, if the list of the second basic form "more sophisticated issue" is complete. I would like to know if combination of the 1960, 1961 and 1963 with the inverted agora also exists. Perhaps readers could clarify the point.

Note: I would like to thank Mr. Ladau and Mr. Zedaka, both of the Israel Government Coins and Medal Corporation for their kind assistance.

Gould's Gelt Guide

by Maurice M. Gould, N.L.G.



Did you ever think of collecting varieties of Israel coins?

I remember years ago when I thought anyone who collected varieties was wasting his time and that the pieces would never be of any consequence. But the great amount of mail I have since received regarding them finally led me to believe that there was something to this branch of collecting. I found the "variety" collector to be one of the most enthusiastic.

As the years pass and the Israeli coins are closely studied, the researchers will come up with new varieties. You can be one of the fortunate ones to make new discoveries if you compare your coins. I have done this with coins of many countries and have found large and small dates, differences in lettering and unusually struck pieces. There is no end to the countless number of varieties in the coins.

A few examples . . . starting with the 1949 25 mils of Israel. This coin comes with an open link and closed link on the reverse and is found at the top connecting the wreath.

The one agora of 1960, with regular and large date.

The one agora of 1961, has three varieties—the regular date, thick date and wide date.

In the pruta varieties, Sylvia Haffner mentions five types of varieties: with and without dash; plated and unplated (on the edges of the nickel-clad steel coins); die breaks; beading; and finally, rotated dies.

These pieces are well covered and photographed in her *History of Modern Israel's Money*.

There are also minor errors in minting, as well as major errors, with off-center coins, planchet defects and large and small dates.

The varieties you could neglect today may be the rarities of the future. This has been proven in the coinage of other countries.

START A MEDAL COLLECTION

Medals are extremely popular these days. For a change of pace, in addition to collecting the wonderful modern coins of Israel, why not try to obtain a medal of Judaic interest, some of which are so replete with historical significance?

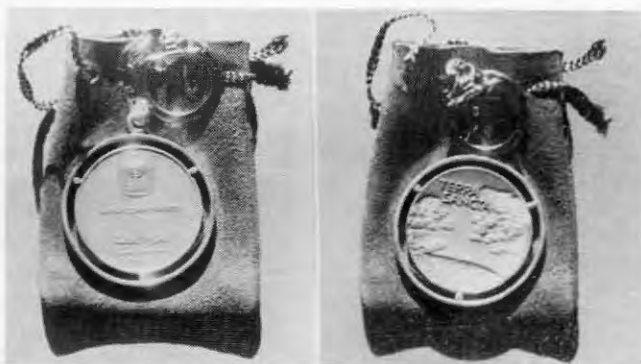
The Emperor Joseph II of the House of Habsburg-Lorraine of the Holy Roman Empire issued an *Edict of Toleration* in 1781. In 1782, so-called "Tolerance" medals were struck to commemorate the granting of religious freedom to the Israelites and Protestants in his Dominion.

The obverse has the bust of the Emperor and the reverse the Imperial eagle and a crown surmounted by the symbolic triangle. Below stand three figures representing a Roman-Catholic Bishop, a Protestant clergyman and a Jewish rabbi, each in the attitude of benediction. There were three other medals issued to honor the same event.

LEARN HEBREW DATING

To gain the greatest amount of pleasure from your collecting, it would be advantageous to learn how to read Hebrew dates. It may seem difficult at first, but once you have mastered the numbers which coincide with the alphabet and learned the letters that are combined to make the dates, you will not only find it more enjoyable but that it makes for easier assembling of coins.

U. S. SECRET SERVICE
GUARDS GIVEN TERRA SANCTA
MEDALS BY PREMIER MEIR



During her whirlwind tour in November, Premier Golda Meir personally distributed tokens of appreciation to approximately thirty U.S. secret service men who were assigned to the Minister's entourage for security. Each received a small suede leather pouch which was drawn closed with a tinsel drawstring.

Upon opening the pouch, the recipient found that he received a key holder attached by hand-made silver linkage to a ringed frame to which is silver soldered at three points an exquisite medal which may be described as follows:

Obverse: The obverse of the Terra Sancta Medal (M-29). A relief of the Holy Land in perspective, in the style of ancient maps, with the Mediterranean in the lower field. In the upper left, the Latin words: Terra Sancta, between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea.

Reverse: In the center of the upper field, the emblem of the State of Israel below which are the words WITH COMPLIMENTS. In the

exergue, a signature GOLDE MEIR below which on two lines — PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL.

Edges: On the medal, plain edge marked in incuse STERLING 935 in English and Kessef (Silver) in Hebrew. The bottom of the ring is stamped 925 ST. Silver.

The obverse was designed by Miriam Karoli and first used on "The Pilgrim's Medal" which was issued in bronze, small and large size silver and in gold. Distribution to the public began in 1963. In 1964, a special issue of 22 karat gold were struck from the 59mm (silver) dies and presented to Pope Pius VI and to the accompanying Cardinals by President Shazar at Megido.

The Terra Sancta medal in gold (M-29c) is one of the two medals recognized as a gold religious item that may be brought in from Israel by a member of the Christian faith. For Jews, the same classification applies to the gold Bar-Mitzvah issues (M 12f, g, and h).

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. What did the Rothschild medal commemorate? TK, Hartford, Conn.

A. It was issued on the occasion of the Inauguration of the Knesset in its new home in 1966. James Rothschild died on May 7, 1957 before fulfilling his wishes to provide the sum of six million Israel pounds for the new home of the Israel legislature. His widow, Mrs. Dorothy A. de Rothschild carried out his testament. Later, the Rothschild Foundation contributed further sums to complete the entire costs which were driven upward by inflation.

Q. I have an 1964 1 Agora on which the point of the 1 is connected to the inside frame by a raised line. Isn't this a variety that should be listed? ARR, Brooklyn, N. Y.



A. When numismatists discuss a variety, the generally accepted meaning is construed to mean a die variety. This usually takes the form of larger or smaller letters, numbers or devices. Another acceptance of a variety is a thick or a thin planchet or even a metallic change. These changes are planned. They are however not accidental. They do not include so-called mint errors, off planchet strikes, rotated dies, wrong planchets, clogged dies, die crumbling or other non-planned freaks that differ from the original striking.

In coinage, as in any other manufacturing process, mistakes do happen. Manufacturers and mints alike, attempt to remove substandard products by inspections during various stages during production. Some faulty radios, automobiles, refrigerators and coins do get out to the public. In the case of the former three items, the manufacturer is taken to task and another new product is immediately demanded.

In the latter, too many expect the inadequate inspection system of a national mint to reward them beyond reason. The photograph of your coin was examined and found, because of the ragged edge extending from the point, to be a die break and not an engraver's scratch.

Note in the photo that the die break continues along the right side of the 1, then continues downward and left into the field of the 1.

Q. Can anyone identify the circumstances and minting of the following? SH—Calif.



Clues: Israel Pavilion Medal — N. Y. World's Fair (1964-65); Bronze — 45 mm.



Clues: Zionist Medals (1920) by J. V. Hoef; .925 fine silver — 30 mm.

JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks

"Medallic Portraits of Einstein — An Appreciation"



It has occurred to me that collectors are often interested only in the subject matter of medals while ignoring the quality of the medal as a work of art. Just as with any *objet d'art*, be it a painting, sculpture, antique, etc., it is the quality of workmanship, the imagination and originality of the creator, that makes it desirable to collect and exhibit. This is not to imply that everyone is going to agree as to what makes a medal great. But it is important that you know what you like and look at medals with a critical eye.

Practically everyone knows who Albert Einstein was and what he accomplished as a scientist and humanitarian. This great man of the Twentieth Century has been honored in many ways—from the naming of a prestigious Medical Center in New York City, to postage stamps (both United States and Israel), and commemorative medals. All of these perpetuate his name and ideas.

Of the four Einstein portrait medals that I will discuss, two are realistic "orthodox" portraits and the others are more stylistic, though very recognizable likenesses.

First is the "*Albert Einstein Commemorative Award*". This medal and three of the others in this article were struck by the *Medallic Art Company*. Featured is a $\frac{3}{4}$ -view of the Professor with a smile on his lips and a generally pixie-ish appearance. Such an informal, relaxed portrait is unusual in the world of medals, but goes far in describing the very human qualities of the medal's subject.

The second medal is "*The Albert Einstein Award*", sculptured by Gilroy Roberts, creator of the Kennedy Half Dollar. The profile bust is of excellent workmanship. Einstein appears here to be somewhat smoother skinned and younger than on the preceding work.

The familiar tousled hair is finely detailed, resembling ocean waves hitting the shore.

These first two medals are presentation pieces and are not generally available to the public.

The Paris Mint got into the act when sculptor Revol created a most unusual portrait of Einstein in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Theory of Relativity. While most of the facial features are sculpted with strong strokes of clay, the famous hair, along with forehead, nose and moustache, are almost totally flat and textureless. This contrast produces a most interesting effect. This medal is still available from the *Paris Mint—Administration des Monnaies et Médailles, 11 quai de Conti, Paris 6, France*.

The most recent medal honoring Einstein was created by Robert Russin for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame series. It is somewhat similar to Revol's sculpture in the use of a bold modeling technique. Russin has captured a thoughtful mood of the late Jewish genius. The bust fills the unusually shaped flan without any wasted space, and there is no inscription to distract from the artwork. The limited edition medal is available from the *Magnes Museum: 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, California 94705*.

All of these works are designed and modelled by renowned artists and should be considered as miniature sculptures to be displayed and enjoyed with other art objects; it would be sad to find any of these (or their like) hidden in a drawer.

There are many methods for displaying medals, limited only by one's inventiveness. Illustrated is a wall rack designed specifically for this purpose by *The Society of Medalists, West Branch Road, Weston, Connecticut 06880*.



The well-known Albert Einstein Commemorative Award.



The new Robert R. Ross medal for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame.



Sculptor Revol medal for Paris Mint, France; 50th Anniversary of Relativity Theory.



The Albert Einstein Award by Gilroy Roberts.



Wall rack for medal display available from The Society of Medalists, Conn.



WIZO MEDAL AWARDED TO GOLDA MEIR

On the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Womens' International Organization (WIZO), the presentation of the WIZO Medal to the Prime Minister of Israel, Golda Meir was made by (left) Mrs. Raya Yaylom, WIZO World President and (extreme right) Mrs. Aya Dinstein, Acting Chairman.

EARLY FARM ON DEAD SEA SHORE FOUND

A Jewish farm from 70 C.E. and a Roman fortress dating from 350 C.E. near Ein Bokek on the shores of the Dead Sea has been uncovered by a team of archaeologists led by Dr. Mordechai Gihon on behalf of Tel Aviv University. The farm, which extended over a distance of three kilometers and was 400 meters wide, belonged to the royal household of King Herod and was operated by tenant farmers, Dr. Gihon said. Its main products were balsam and various spices, which were mentioned by Plinius and Josephus Flavius.

The farm was destroyed in the year 70 by Jewish rebels because the tenants were suspected of collaboration. The skeleton of a man was found there, with a Titus coin on each eye, and a Bar Cochba coin on the ground

Continued on page 31



Mr. Arie Kindler (right) receiving the award from Dr. E. W. Klimowsky, (left). In front: Dr. K. A. Moosberg, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Kadman Prize.

KADMAN PRIZE TO KINDLER, MEYSHAN

The bi-annual Kadman Prize has been awarded in December, 1970 to Mr. Arie Kindler and Dr. Joseph Meyshan at a ceremony in the James and Edith Ross Library of the Kadman Numismatic Museum.

The chairman of the Trustes of the Leo Kadman Prize, Dr. E. W. Klimowsky pointed out that Mr. Kindler was given the Kadman Prize for "Numismatic literature" as an honor for his five books and over 100 articles on numismatic topics mainly concerning the region of Holy Land.

The judges were Prof. M. Avi-Yonah of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Dr. Kenneth Jenkins, Keeper of Coins, Dept. of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London; Dr. Otto Morkholm, Director of the Numismatic Dept. of the Danish National Museum, Copenhagen; and Prof. Paul Naster, Belgium.

Dr. J. Meyshan was awarded an honorary prize for his activities in numismatics, both for his publications and public activities.

Jewish Minters and Engravers in World Currency

by Daniel M. Friedenberg

Curator of Coins and Medals

The Jewish Museum of New York

(Continued from Vol. III, No. 4)

Of all countries which had Hebrew inscriptions on their coinage, the case of Poland is unique. Again the historical setting is relevant. The year 1966 was officially proclaimed as the 1000th Jubilee of Christianity in Poland. With all due respect, it must be stated that the year 966 was the introduction, not the institution, of Polish Catholicism. For several hundred years the new religion did not crystallize. It was only in the 12th century—1124 to 1128—that Pomerania became converted to Christianity and Boleslaus III, in the words of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*,³⁶ succeeded in "making head against paganism generally." The amazing events we are describing occurred within fifty years of that time. They are backed in a detailed study made by Professor Marian Gumowski³⁷ of some 320 coins with Hebrew inscriptions.

In 1173 Mieszko III, called Mieszko the Elder, ascended the throne of Great Poland. This corresponded



Mieszko III permitted the Jews to strike state coins with Hebrew inscriptions after his recapture of the throne. The word "beracha" (blessing to Mieszko) is stamped with good reason on many coins.

roughly to the area of Western and Central Poland as we know it today, including the lands reincorporated from Germany after World War II.

Boleslaus IV, who preceded Mieszko III, employed Jews to mint and distribute the state coins, but nothing more. No Hebrew appears on his denars.

Mieszko the Elder had other ideas, based on a mixture of avarice and necessity.³⁸ On one hand he wanted to expand his empire, and needed money to buy friends and make war. On the other hand, facing the problem of every feudal overlord in that period, he was anxious to weaken the power of his surly princes.

His solution—which in certain ways resembled that of certain kings of the Christian part of Spain during the same period, especially Pedro the Cruel of Castile—was to employ Jews to push unpopular measures.

Immediately after coming to the Cracow throne, Mieszko III carried out a monetary reform. All the heavy old coins with a high silver content were withdrawn from circulation. In their place thin bracteates, with a silver content one half to a third of the old denars, were issued. These new coins

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were so thin they wore out almost immediately and had to be reissued several times a year. This furnished Mieszko a further opportunity to enrich himself, and the coins grew lighter and more fragile with each new issue. For this purpose the king used Jewish agents, who collected the old coins and brought them to the mint, struck the new coins and employed other Jews to redistribute them. It should be noted that in this first period of Mieszko III's rule, no Hebrew was engraved on official state money.

After four years popular resentment reached the boiling point and the feudal princes, who had been enfeebled by the king, found an opportunity to revolt. Mieszko was overthrown and fled. In his place Casimir II or the Just, Mieszko's younger brother, came to power.

The new ruler was a weak man and soon the rebellious princes each began to issue his own currency, the very policy opposed by Mieszko—and the sole affirmative feature of his monetary reform. Ironically, Casimir the Just also relied on Jewish mint masters and it was during his reign that the first Hebrew appeared on Polish state coins.

Popular discontent with the resultant economic chaos gave Mieszko another chance. By means of an enormous loan, he raised a large army and retook the crown.

We do not know the source of his financing. But it is noteworthy that immediately after his return to power, Mieszko gave a life grant to the Jews for the farming of the mint and for control of its yearly exchange. Under Casimir they only controlled a single mint in Great Poland. Under Mieszko they not only took over this mint at Gniezno, but those of Inowroclaw and Kalisch. It is not difficult to guess at

the origin of the loan which brought Mieszko back to power. Under him, the Jews also became collectors of taxes, keepers of the royal monopolies and royal judges. This was a Golden Age for Polish Jewry.

Mieszko III permitted the Jews to strike state coins with Hebrew inscriptions after his recapture of the throne. Indeed, the word "Beracha", "Blessing" to Mieszko, is stamped with good reason on most of the coins. We have two of these bracteates at the Jewish Museum of New York. Other coin types, similar to the Hungarian Issuance referred to before, also appear. On one coin an angel is shown with outstretched wings, stamped "Beracha" beneath. On another "Beracha" is alongside of a bishop holding a crozier. The Jewish mint masters under Mieszko had a sense of humor. Only infrequently did they sign their coins; a rare exception is one stamped "Yaakov" ("Jacob") in the Jewish Museum collection.

The sons of Mieszko partly followed in the footsteps of their father. Boleslaus of Kujavien (Kuiawy) employed Jewish mint masters, at first permitting them to strike the coins with Hebrew inscriptions, but later switched to Latin. Mieszko the Younger gave an even larger latitude during his seven years reign (1186-93). On some of these coins the entire obverse is taken up with the Hebrew name; an example is "Rabbi Abraham Ben Yizhak Nagid." Other typical names of mint masters stamped in Hebrew are Yosef, Abraham and Yosef Ben Yehuda Hachohen.

Forty years after the death of Mieszko III, his great grandson Przemislaus I again allowed Jewish mint masters to engrave their names in Hebrew on state coins. A bracteate of this king clearly stamped "Menachem" is in the New York Jewish Museum collection.

36 Fourteenth Edition, "Poland", p. 134

37 Marian Gumowski, *Handbuch der Polnischen Numismatik*, Graz, 1960. A condensation of this material appeared in an article by Moshe Bone, "Hebrew Inscriptions on Medieval Polish Official Coins", *Israel Numismatic Bulletin*, Aug.-Dec., 1962

38 The following historical account is an attempt to steer a middle course between different interpretations of what occurred during this troubled time of Polish history. All facts quoted are correct; I believe the interpretation is reasonable.

His son Przymeslaus II did the same. In these later cases, there is some evidence that large loans from the Jews of Gniezno, where the mint was located, enabled the kings to secure their thrones. This was obviously the prime factor.

One of the coins of Przymeslaus II even shows a head with a tricorn, the typical three-horned Jewish head garb of the period. Thus, official Polish currency was decorated with a Jewish portrait rather than that of the king! Outside of coins issued by the direct descendants of Herod the Great for pagan districts to the north and east of old Judaea, this is the first time to the knowledge of the writer that a Jewish portrait appeared on a coin in all history.³⁹

To sum up, it can be stated with certainty that for some fifty years in the 12th and 13th centuries the official currency of Poland, indeed the only legal tender, was not only issued by Jewish mint masters but had Hebrew inscriptions on the coins.

The close of the reign of Przymeslaus II marked the end of Hebrew on Polish currency. But the Jews still continued to wield economic influence, especially under Casimir the Great and Queen Jadwiga.⁴⁰ In the reign of the former, in 1360, the Cracow mint was transferred to Levko, an important Jewish banker, apparently as security against a loan.⁴¹ Also in 1508, under Sigmunt the Old, a Jew by the name of Abraham Esowowitz was appointed mint master. The arrangement proved profitable for the king and Jan Abra-

mowitz, the son of Abraham was granted patents of nobility in 1528 as a reward.⁴² Again in 1555 King Augustus Sigismund II, in his Lithuanian province of Poland, "leased to a certain Jew in Vilna" the privilege of minting coins for three years.⁴³ And lastly in 1560 the Vilna concession was again given to two Jews, named Felix and Borodavka.⁴⁴

The 17th century brings us back to the Germanic states. During this and the succeeding 18th century the "Hof-Juden" or Court Jews and the "Munz-Juden" or Coin Jews rose to positions of enormous economic power in the Austrian empire and certain German principalities.

Despite the fact that Leopold I of Austria expelled the Jews from Vienna in 1670, he leaned strongly on their financial talents.⁴⁵ Jews, scattered among the provinces of the empire, were the best intermediaries to buy ore and Leopold I had as chief purveyors for the imperial mint three Jews, Michael, Schlesinger and Hirschel. Hirschel was also appointed mint master in Brieg, near Breslau.⁴⁶ The roots of many famous Austrian Jewish fortunes of men such as Jacob Bassevi, Samuel Oppenheimer and Samson Wertheimer sprang from contracts to purvey gold and silver to the state mints.

The same condition existed in the German states.⁴⁷ Jacob David of Mannheim was the lessee of the mint at Saxe-Meiningen.⁴⁸ Men such as the

39 Excluded, of course, are anti-Semitic representations. The Roman emperors showed Jewish captives on coins after the destruction of Judaea. Also certain 12th century bracteates are supposed to depict Jews stoning St. Stephen. The bracteates appeared in the bishopric of Halberstadt under Ulrich I (1149-1160) and Gero von Schermke (1160-1177). Julius Cahn, *op. cit.*, also feels that a figure half kneeling before a lord on a bracteate issued by David Weteerau represents a Jew bowing in fealty.

40 Moshe Bone, *op. cit.*, p. 95

41 *Ibid.*, p. 95

42 *Ibid.*, p. 95

43 Israel Cohen, *Vilna*, Jewish Publication Society of America, 1943, p. 4

44 *Ibid.*, p. 5

45 Selma Stern, *The Court Jew*, Jewish Publication Society of America, Phila, 1950, p. 164

46 *Ibid.*, p. 164

47 *Ibid.*, pp. 162-176

48 *Ibid.*, p. 164



Joseph Suss (Jew Suss) Oppenheimer medal of 1738 was made in pewter, 38mm, and shows a gallows scene on the reverse.



Another Oppenheimer piece, in lead, 32mm, portrays the former mintmaster at Darmstadt.

Bavarian Seligmann Loew, Baruch Hollander of Hesse, Moses Wulff of Gotha and Gerd Levi of Hamburg, all had monopolies on ore shipments to the mints of their various rulers. The most famous was "Jud Sus", Joseph Stuttgart mint and financial minister to the Duke of Wuertemberg. After the duke died, Oppenheimer was seized and hung in 1738, the event being so celebrated that several medals were struck to memorialize the occasion.

The "Munz-Juden" were particularly strong at the Prussian court.⁴⁹ Frederick Wilhelm I used Jews as his main suppliers of silver for the state mints. His son, Frederick the Great, depended almost entirely on Jews as mint masters. In 1755 the king leased the six state mints to a Jewish firm consisting of Daniel Itzig, an important banker, his brother-in-law, the money dealer Moses Isaak, and Hertz Moses Gumpertz, a leading tobacco manufacturer. This firm had successfully competed against another syndicate formed by the Fraenkel brothers, former lessees of the Koenigsberg and Breslau mints for several years, and Veitel-Heine Ephraim, court jeweller to Frederick I.

In 1758, when Gumpertz died, the two firms merged and the king leased all six Prussian mints and the two Saxon mints to the new company. The group continued to operate the mints for many years.

These "Coin Jews", the Jewish aristocracy of Prussia, aided and encouraged their brethren. Jacob Abraham (1722-1800), a top medalist of his time, was hired to engrave the royal coins. His son, Abraham Abramson (1754-1811) was even better known and is considered by many the finest 18th century medal engraver. Most versatile, Abramson was not only an engraver to the Prussian mint but official medalist to the court as well.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Simon Dubnow, *Welt Geschichte des Jüdischen Volkes von seinen Ur-Anfangen bis zur Gegenwart* (Band VII — des XVII und das XVIII Jahrhundert), Berlin, 1926, p. 309

⁵⁰ Tassilo Hoffman, *Jacob Abraham und Abraham Abramson — 55 Jahr Medaillenkunst* (1755-1810), Frankfurt a/M, 1927, Introduction

Frederick the Great, unlike some of his contemporary reigning colleagues, determined mint policy and insisted on a debasement of the coinage in order to finance his many wars. This brought on much anti-Semitism in the general population. But the practice saved the Prussian state, as Frederick himself admitted. Hugo Rachel, the historian of Frederick and a man not sympathetic to the Jews, wrote: "The general lessees were merely mint contractors and made only an 8 per cent profit on the metal they supplied, while the huge profits made by the mints naturally went to the State and to the war treasury".⁵¹

The emancipation of the Jews, which received its impetus during the French Revolution and gathered force under Napoleon, led to a new political climate. In one sense, the close relation of Jews to mints and treasuries vanished as the decline of autocratic princely power eliminated Court Jews. In another sense, the artistic position of Jews advanced. Freed from the ghetto, they rapidly applied themselves to the arts, including designing and engraving. The result was that there were fewer mint masters than former days, but far more top engravers.

Jacob Abraham and Abraham Abramson were the two most outstanding Jewish engravers of the 18th century. But there were others, justly famed in their time. Samuel Yudin (or Judin), whose life span almost directly paralleled that of Jacob Abraham, struck coins for the court of St. Petersburg and was considered a top Russian medalist. Aaron Jacobsohn (or Jacobson) was appointed court engraver in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1750. (Mention should be made of Christian Lebrecht Schild [1711-1751]. Schild, a German Jew by birth, adopted the Protestant faith in 1731 and settled at Frankfurt where he established his reputation.)

The 19th century saw other important Jewish engravers. Repeating the



Illustrated above: Cast bronze plaque of Abraham Abrahamson (1754-1811) by Sors.

story of Jacob Abraham and his son almost one hundred years later in Russia, Avenir Griliches of Vilna was appointed engraver to the Imperial Mint in 1874. His son, Abraham Griliches, followed the same path and was first engraver, and then (1903) senior engraver for the Czar. The son was also a noted medalist.

Even more famous was the Weiner family of Belgium. Three brothers, Charles, Jacob (Jacques) and Leopold, all won top honors in this field. Jacob was a leading artist, not only noted for medal engraving, but also as the designer of the first Belgian postage stamps. Leopold was the Royal engraver to the Belgian government and issued more than 150 coins for the mint. Charles was first assistant designer of the Royal Mint in London, then chief medal designer of the Portuguese mint in Lisbon, and finally brought back home to direct the Brussels mint. The coins and medals he designed are considered among the most beautiful of his age.

⁵¹ Selma Stern, *op. cit.*, quoted on p. 176

In our time, Paul Vincze, the Hungarian-born Englishman, is not only considered a foremost medalist but has also designed some of the new national currency for such nations as Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, Malawi and Guinea.



Somewhat later, at the beginning of the 20th century, Victor D. Brenner, a Russian-born American, won fame as the engraver of the Lincoln cent. This design is so pleasing, it is almost unique among present American coins to remain unchanged for over fifty years. In our own time, Paul Vincze, the Hungarian-born Englishman, is not only considered a foremost medalist but has also designed some of the new national currency for nations such as Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, Malawi and Guinea. And the reputation of Harald Copenhagen, is so established that the Smithsonian Institute recently displayed several of his medals as outstanding among contemporary medalists.

It can be seen that the Jewish impact on world coinage, and particularly that of Europe, has been enormous. Perhaps most astounding is the

coinage of national European states with Hebrew inscriptions. Most of these coins were struck one thousand years after Emperor Hadrian's "final solution", when Judaea was smashed to pieces, Jerusalem razed and the earth under its ruins freshly plowed to demonstrate, according to Roman customs, the death of the old and the inaugural of the new. And today, almost another thousand years later still, the reborn state of Israel is again issuing money. From 70 C.E. to 93 C.E. the Emperors Vespasian, Titus and Domitian issued a series of "Judaea Capta" — "Judaea is Taken" — coins. Only recently the Israeli government issued a coin "Israel Liberata" — "Israel is Freed." And their footsteps in this long period are recorded in the coinage of the many nations where they lived.

END

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The Shekel gratefully appreciates permission from *The Numismatist* and from the author to reprint the foregoing article from *The Numismatist*, Volume 80, No. 12 (December, 1967).

Numismatist-Philatelist Presented With Plaque Honoring Lifetime Contributions

In 1950, *A Century of Jewish History* was displayed at the Jewish Museum in New York City. Consisting of 80 framed panels, 22" x 32", it showed the lights and shadows of Jewish history utilizing stamps, covers, coins, documents and photos. The first of its kind, the exhibit was sponsored by the Jewish Agency and the State of Israel.

Twenty years later, a committee was formed to honor Mr. Weitz and his exhibit. It consisted of Mr. Hugo D. Schutzer, Postmaster in Jerusalem; Mr. Ephraim Levy, Director of Israel Coins and Medals Corporation; Mr. Morris Bram, President of American Israel Numismatic Society; Mr. Jan Bart, President of the Judaica Historical Philatelic Society; Mr. Martin Tannenbaum, President of New York Chapter of the Society of Israel Philatelists; Mr. Edward Janis, President of INS of N. Y. Cooperating in this event were the Theodore Herzl Institute, the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Welfare Board.

In December, 1970, at the Herzl Institute in New York City, Mr. Morris Bram, Committee Chairman, detailed the highlights of Mr. Weitz's background and presented him with a suitably inscribed plaque.

Mr. Weitz was born in Poland, educated primarily in that country. In 1934, he arrived in Palestine and soon became a Haganah member and Director of the Youth Division of the J.N.F. in Tel Aviv. Under the British Mandate, he organized a youth secret postal delivery system for Tel Aviv environs. He was Director of Israel's Amateur Athletic Association and lead sports delegations abroad.

His native Stanislavov was the scene of his first *Judaica on Stamps* exhibit (1930). Sixteen years later, he devised a large scale exhibit in Tel Aviv, "A



Morris Bram, Emil Weitz and Ephraim Levy. Mr. Weitz holds plaque awarded for Weitz efforts in commemorating Jewish history through numismatics and philately.

Century of Jewish History", which was shown in many cities and awarded many prizes. Special covers and cancellations were issued.

Twenty years ago at the Jewish Museum, the exhibit received wide acclaim. The Museum was host again in 1959; Israel in 1951; cities in Canada and in the United States asked for the exhibition.

From 1950 on, Mr. Weitz has been the President of Israel Coin Distributors Corporation. He has created and managed many Israeli trade and art exhibitions.

Mr. Weitz is author of a number of books. One of them, *On the Ruins of Stanislavov* aided in bringing to justice in West Germany 18 Nazi criminals.

As a philatelic writer and historian, Mr. Weitz has had published scores of articles in the philatelic press and is at present preparing for publication two books relating to Judaic philately.

The more than 200 people assembled at the Herzl Institute warmly applauded both the award and the lecture-demonstration, first of a series of three held in the winter months.

REV. DR. De SOLA POOL

DIES AT 85;

MEDAL HONORS HIS LIFE

The very week in which the 1970 winter issue (Vol. III, No. 4) of *The Shekel* went into the mails, the Rev. Dr. David de Sola Pool, honored by his congregation during his lifetime with a medal on the occasion of his 85th birthday, died at home. The mourning period was marked by numerous expressions of sympathy at his death by the leadership of America's religious, cultural and political communities.

Dr. de Sola Pool is survived by his wife, herself a noted teacher, lecturer and author; a son, Dr. Ithiel de Sola Pool, a professor of political science at M.I.T.; and a daughter, Dr. Naomi de Sola Pool, a physician.



Dr. de Sola Pool was born in London and was educated in England. At 22, after arrival in the United States he was invited to head the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue. By 1917 he had risen through the ranks of young brilliant Jewish leaders and he was one of three selected for service on the food conservation staff headed by Herbert Hoover.

By 1919 he was one of three American representatives on the Zionist Commission to Palestine. He held numerous offices over the years in organ-

izations dedicated to education and religion. He was a delegate to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization congress in 1959.

His numerous books are philosophical in nature on such themes as *Why I am a Jew* and he was a scholar who edited and translated many volumes of Hebrew liturgy and Spanish pamphlets.

The medal in his honor is still available from AINA at \$5.00 plus 50c for postage and handling, advises Morris Bram, president.

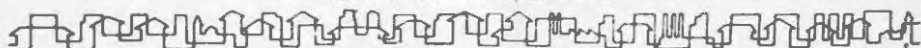
TOKENS (Continued)

In the early 1950s these tokens were exchanged freely, particularly in Jerusalem, as a money substitute. Since it was generally recognized that these cardboard tokens could be directly redeemed into valuable food commodities, it was not long before there commenced an active trade in them for their cash value. In later years, as a result of criticism about the tokens being transferred illicitly, the Vaad took steps to eliminate cash transactions and any type of transfer of the tokens by the original yeshiva recipients.

The sixteen tokens contained in my personal collection of food tokens circulated in the yeshivot of Israel under the auspices of the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Vaad Hayeshivot (Council of Yeshivot) in Israel:

It is interesting to note that although token exchange ceased some six years ago, the Joint continues to act for the U. S. Agency for International Development (AID) as a food distribution agency. Recently, AID provided the Joint with 2000 tons of U. S. flour, valued at \$250,000, to be used in yeshivot and in the Joint's ten Malben homes for the aged. All told the Joint has distributed American surplus food in Israel worth some \$8.2 million . . . a tangible tale of American-Israeli friendship.

Club News



CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor.

CLUB MEMBER ADDRESSES INS MASS. MEETING

Israel's Medals was the theme of a presentation by Mrs. Louise Buckley, a member of the INS of Massachusetts at the first meeting of 1971 in Brookline, Mass.

The club learned that the February meeting would hear Itzhak Avni of the Coins and Medals Corporation, Jerusalem. New medals of the Government were announced in the club newsletter prior to the meeting.

Ancient Coins were discussed at the final meeting of 1970 at a meeting which also heard a talk by Rabbi Murray I. Rothman of Newton who spoke on The Maccabees. Ancient coins enthusiast, Mel Wacks, president of the INS of Long Island, made the main presentation. Another guest from the New York area was J. J. Van Grover, secretary of the INS of New York.

Door prizes were made part of the meetings, reports Sandra Walter, secretary.



INS of Mass officers: front, l. to r.: Louise Buckley, V. Pres.; Sandra R. Walter, Corresp. Sec'y; Back Row, l. to r.: Louis Green, Treasurer; Marshall Schneider, New Issues Mgr.; Irving L. Rudin, Pres.; Ed Shade, V. Pres.; David Parritz, Librarian.

CHANUKAH COIN GIFTS TO LONG ISLANDERS

To commemorate Chanukah, The Israel Numismatic Society of Long Island sent an Israeli coin free to anyone who sent a self-addressed envelope to the group.

I.N.S.L.I. holds its meetings every third Thursday of the month in Rockville Centre, L.I. with visitors and guests always welcome.

Morris Bram, president of A.I.N.A. installed the following newly elected officers:

*PRESIDENT — Mel Wacks
1st Vice-President — Irving Stoff
2nd Vice-President — Charles Morris
Recording Secretary — David Gottlieb
Corresponding Secretary — Morty Zerder
Treasurer — Perry P. Rosenfeld
Sgt. at Arms — Dr. Emanuel Rubin
Trustees — Morris Bram, Moe Weinschel,
David Wolin, Fred Mantei*

A talk of the Presentation Medals from the XIIIth and XXth Anniversaries of the State of Israel was delivered by Mr. Bram, announced P. P. Rosenfeld, Treasurer and Director of Publicity.

MARYLANDERS FORM INS CHAPTER IN BALTIMORE

Another chapter has been added to the ever growing ranks of local Israel Numismatic Societies. The number of interested collectors of Judaic and Israeli material is ever growing.

On a Thursday night in December, The Israel Numismatic Society of Maryland was officially inaugurated into the A.I.N.A. family of local chapters. The affair was held in the auditorium of the Jewish Community Center in Baltimore, Maryland.



From l. to r.: Harold Mondell, pres., David Guttman, secty.-tres., Sidney Kuff, vice pres., Morris Bram, pres. AINA, Ephraim Levy director IGCAMC.

On hand to welcome the club were about 250 members of the local community. They were witness to a stimulating, educational and entertaining evening. The speakers were: *Harold Mondell*, president of I.N.S. of Maryland; *Mr. E. Levy*, Director, Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation; *Mr. Yohanan Bein*, Israel Embassy, Washington; *Mr. K. Hettelman*, administrative assistant to Mayor of Baltimore; *Mr. M. Bram*, president of A.I.N.A.; and *Mr. M. Gat*, Director, Baltimore office of *El Al Israel Airlines*.

Those present were shown a movie, *Within the Circle*, and very ably entertained by Gadi Eilon, and his talented accompanist, Herzl. Following the entertainment there were exhibitions of Judaic and Israeli material presented by members of the local chapter and refreshments.

Officers of the new group include:

Harold Mondell — President
Sidney Kuff — Vice-President
David Guttman — Secretary

MAJOR ISRAEL COIN DISPLAY SET FOR ONTARIO APRIL SHOW

A display of seven cases of Israel medals will be on display in the Court of Honor at the April 24-25 Convention of the Ontario Numismatic Association. The cases and medals are on loan by Art Leff of London, Canada.

The convention will be held at the President Motor Hotel in Sudbury.

PITTSBURGH GROUP SECOND IN PENNSYLVANIA

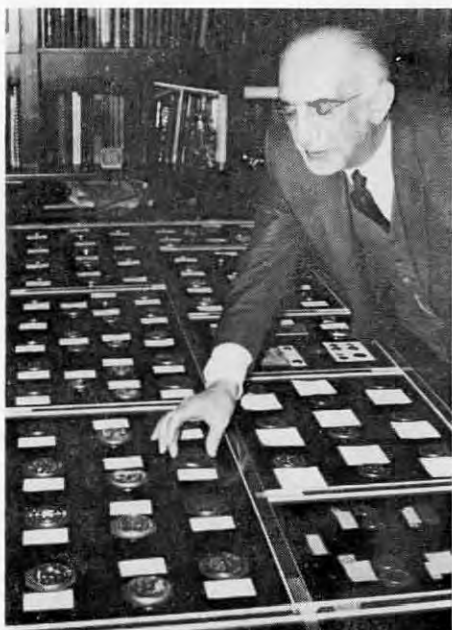
Films and slide shows from AINA have been shown at recent meetings of the newly organized INS of Greater Pittsburgh.

Officers of the new group include:

President — Rabbi Aaron B. Ilson
Vice-President — Morris Freezman
Recording Secretary — Morris B. Epstein
Corresponding Secretary — Mrs. Anne Catz
Treasurer — Robert Lesser
Directors — Mrs. Aldona Davis, Dr. Milton E. Klein, Ithamar B. Lando, Dr. Leslie Reggel, Alan A. Reznik, Edmund J. Schneck, Jr.

The formal organization of the new chapter was at a February meeting which heard Itzhak Avni; Ephraim Levy; and others. Leaders of the community had been invited to join the local numismatists for the event marking the start-up of the second INS group in the state of Pennsylvania.

A door prize donated by Aldona Davis at the meeting prior to the Chanukah holiday was the Chanukah Commemorative Medal of 1958. The winner was Dr. Leslie Reggel.



President of the newly formed INS of Greater Pittsburgh, Rabbi Aaron B. Ilson in his study with a large collection of Israel medals and coins kept under glass in his study to be seen by numerous visitors and guests.

LOS ANGELES GROUP ELECTS

President Nate Bromberg of the INS of Los Angeles has set plans to make 1971 "A Year of Continued Progress" with plans to reach the highest membership, citing the fact that 1970 saw the addition of 30 new members alone.

Officers for 1971 include:

President — Nate Bromberg
1st Vice-Pres. — Claire Abelson
2nd Vice-Pres. — Jack Wazman
Recording Sect'y — Lil Janko
Corresp. Sect'y — Sarah Breslow
Treasurer — Babe Baker

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Milton Fishgold (automatic)
Ben Abelson
Jerry Yahalom
Bill Sadler
Armando Ojeda
Cliff Roth
Evelyn Sadler

The installation meeting at the Nob Hill Restaurant included speeches by Bunny Ben-Ari of EL AL Airlines; and a serious message from Phil Blazer, a radio commentator from Station KBFM. A Desk Pen and Pencil Set was awarded to retiring president, Milton Fishgold. Dinner guests were given drawing tickets for 1968 and 1970 Specimen Sets.

An unusual table favor was given to all: a plastic letter opener with a 1 Agora 1970 coin in the handle. To get a different version as a gift from the club, each member is to learn the Hebrew Numbers. Quizzes are held at club activities so that members can demonstrate their newly-learned language ability.

(Editor: Sounds like a program other clubs might like to copy.)

The January meeting reviewed all of these letters and numbers in a discussion led by Claire and Ben Abelson, reported Evelyn Sadler, editor of the club newsletter.

NOVEL SLIDE PRESENTATIONS AND HOLY LAND ARCHAEOLOGY AT CLEVELAND MEETINGS

Members of the INS of Cleveland have been treated to unusual slide presentations by experts at well at-

tended meetings this winter. In late January, Dr. Albert Fridberg gave a complete presentation on the *Archaeology of the Holy Land*.

The December meeting, held jointly with the Cleveland Chapter of the Society of Israel Philatelists drew an audience of 100 to witness a two-projector presentation with simultaneous projection of coins, medals and stamps. Stanley Yulish spoke on the coins and medals; Dr. Fridberg spoke on the stamps.

Auctions of numismatic material, refreshments and door prizes were additional meeting features, reports Sam Richman, editor of *The Agora*, the club's lively newsletter.

Recent meeting notices provided helpful collectors' material such as a one-page listing of the 1966-68-70 values for five pound and ten-pound coins; and a listing of Commemorative Coins issued by the Bank of Israel 1957-1969.

TEXANS SEE FILMS

The film, *Children of the Exodus*, narrated by Zero Mostel and filmed entirely in Israel to document the search for children who had appeared in a 1947 photograph and whose fortunes in Israel could be revealed as an Israel success story was featured at the January meeting of the INS of Texas, advises Harold Z. Nelkin.

Officers for 1971 include:

President — Harold Z. Nelkin
Vice President — Charlie Bruce Barton
Secretary — Leonard Cersonsky
Treasurer — Ben Feder
Sgt. of Arms — Dr. Sam Gold
Board Members — Alfred Selsky; Robert Astrich; and Stuart Bamberger

The meetings earlier include showings of *Bus to Sinai*, a story of tourists taken to visit the famed St. Catharina Monastery and the Mount Sinai; and *Bon Voyage*, a tour by motorcycle with a young couple who cycle from Mount Hermon in the North of Israel to Eliat in the South.

The group thanked the Glazer Liquor Company for assistance in decorating the INS booth at the Israeli festival in Texas late last Fall.

NEW YORKERS HEAR TALK, SEE SLIDES

The INS of N. Y. held the January meeting at the Sheraton-McAlpin Hotel in N. Y. C. and heard its president, Edward Janis give a illustrative talk on the nine coin-medal series. In addition to the slides of the actual coins, Janis showed a half-dozen slides of each of the cities which showed the ancient buildings and rooms plus views of the modern city and its activities.

Another feature of the evening was a comparison of designs of 1958 1L Chanukah coins to determine the differences between the regular and the proof issues. The conclusion was that both issues must be examined together to see the difference in the planchets.

On February 9, Emil Weitz spoke on "Little Known Highlights of Jewish Numismatics". Interesting architectural medals and tokens plus mint errors of modern Israel coins were the features of the evening.

INS OF SACRAMENTO ELECTS OFFICERS

Members of the Sacramento Israel Numismatic Society elected officers for 1971:

Mike Grossman, President
Gerhard Saloman, Vice-President
Al Malkin, Treasurer
James Mansour — Secretary

The new officers assumed responsibilities at the January meeting, reported Sanders D. Rosenberg, retiring president.

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BORGOLTE LECTURES ON DAVID AND JERUSALEM TO LOS ANGELES CLUB

One of the leading numismatists in the United States, Peggy E. Borgolte, president during 1970 of the American British Numismatic Society and a Fellow in the Royal Numismatic Society of London, England is also a member of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles.

After research and planning, Peggy E. Borgolte delivered one of the most memorable lectures in the history of the L.A. group, choosing as her theme, *Jerusalem—King David's City*.



Her talk began with David's role in selecting a hilltop city that was to be Jerusalem, his capital, then a citadel with the towers and for-

tifications of its time. She told the story of the entry into the city through the well which fed from a hillside spring, one of several sources for water for the city.

A brief review of each of the periods of the city leading to the present Jerusalem made up the second section of her talk.

Coins and medals reflecting the glories of the city in key periods are well known to collectors. From its founding about 1500 B.C. to the present day, the story of Jerusalem, its destruction and rebirth and its historic role as a centre for many religions make this story ever interesting and dramatic.

Peggy Borgolte's retelling of the story against a background of the struggle for the life of Jerusalem as a particularly Jewish city was all the more welcome today.

A Synagogue Poor Box Yields Roman Coins

An ancient synagogue poor box wrenched from its moorings and its contents of "more than 400 tiny Roman coins" were among finds reported in *The New York Times* (October 19, 1970) at excavations currently in progress in Sardis, the city of King Croesus in western Turkey.

A joint expedition of Harvard University and Cornell University which is now in its fourteenth year at the site has been restoring the city's synagogue, thought to be the largest early known one. There the archaeologists found a "bronze container, thought to be the poor box" that had been wrenched from its moorings. More than "400 tiny Roman coins, the equivalent of pennies, were scattered about as if left by a thief frustrated by so small an amount" is an explanation accorded to Robert L. Wann, the Cornell graduate student who made the

discovery last summer during the thirteenth year of the project. summer was spent in restoring the mosaic floors in the main hall of the synagogue and rebuilding the columns of the main entrance.

Other restorations and discoveries in the area relate to a 2500 year old altar to the Greek goddess Artemis, the city's gold refineries which were the sources of history's first state-guaranteed coinage, stated the article, written by John Noble Wilford.

News of the total effort was provided to the writer by Professor George M. A. Hanfmann, director of the expedition. He is a professor of fine arts at Harvard University.

The last city to stand on the site was destroyed in 1402 by the Mongol conqueror Tamerlane. Three small villages of modern construction stand over parts of the old city's ruins.

EARLY FARM FOUND

Continued from page 18.

next to him. Also found there were agricultural implements made of stone, wood, bronze and iron.

The Roman fortress was erected in 350 C.E., and its destruction began in 614 C.E., the Persian era, and ended in 650 C.E. under the Moslems. The base was discovered by Dr. Gihon two years ago and the present excavation, which lasted two months and ended recently, concluded the operation.

Romans Copied Defense Measures from Jews. The fortress had 12 towers, each 12 meters high, a new fashion at that time, which the Romans copied from the Jews. It was part of a network of border fortresses guarding the Roman empire over a length of some 9,000 miles. This particular one guard-

ed the salt road from the Dead Sea to the North.

Twelve papyri written in Greek were found within the walls, the largest one consisting of 16 lines. It concerned a loan to be given to a farmer. Ceramic vessels, arrowheads, cloth and glass were also found in the fortress.

Dr. Rudolph Bloch, scientific adviser to the Negev Arid Zone Research Institute, said that nitrates were produced on the spot for the production of glass, and in the 14th century the Mamelukes used the nitrates in gunpowder which they fired against the Portuguese fleet that shelled Suez in 1460. The fortress was run on Nahal (modern Israeli Fighting Pioneering Youth) lines, the men guarding the border and sustaining themselves on agriculture. Seventy volunteers—most of them high school students studying at the field school in Ein Gedi, worked on the excavation.

**THE
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE (Continued)**

base for forming INS groups in two boroughs of the City of New York (Queens and Brooklyn), and with INS groups in both New Jersey and Connecticut. Now as a member you are part of the largest organization of its kind in the world! I congratulate you for making it all possible!

A Word of Apology: the *Pidyon HaBen* Coins were mailed only in January despite pledges to you to deliver before the end of 1970. The mailings were delayed for technical reasons and we held off notifying you of such a delay believing each week that "this week" it would be mailed for sure. But now you have them.

Look Ahead to the Summer: ANA will have its annual convention this year in Washington, D.C. at the Washington Hilton between August 10-14. This will be our Fourth Anniversary and AINA will have its own Anniversary Party, with the INS clubs of

Washington and Baltimore co-hosting the affair. We will have our party on Thursday, August 12. If I haven't visited your town . . . or your club before then, I'll look forward to greeting you there.

Cordially, *Morris Bram.*



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Look forward to the announcement of a medal to be issued by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Karen Kayemet Le Israel, better known to Americans as the Jewish National Fund—J.N.F.

Many will remember the blue and white tin "pushkas" (donation boxes) that were everywhere. Reforestation and roadbuilding are the two main activities of J.N.F.

In 1948 less than 5 million trees were planted. Today there are over 100 million growing trees.

All settlements such as "arim" (cities), "moshavot" (villages), "moshavim" (smaller villages) and the "kevutsa" and "kibutsim" (communal settlements) are linked through the road building responsibilities of the Jewish National Fund.

The road-building (obverse) and the sky view from the forest floor on the reverse are well chosen and beautifully executed.—EJ